(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) NHDP Phase-I and II includes four-laning of about 206 km of NH on Golden Quadrilateral and about 501 km. of NH on East-West Corridor. Besides, Government has already approved 4/6 laning of 1015 km of National Highways No. 19, 28A, 30, 31, 57A, 77, 80, 83, 84 and 85 on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-III in the State of Bihar. No other stretch of NH has been approved by the Government for 4/6 laning in the State of Bihar. NHDP Phase-III, as a whole, is targeted for completion by Dec. 2013.

NHDP in Bihar

†4693. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the road project taken under the National Highways Development Project in Bihar and the present status thereof;

(b) whether Government are having any plan to convert almost 2400 km. stretch of the State Highway into National Highway;

(c) if so, by when the said roads are likely to be converted into National Highways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Four-laning of about 206 km length of NH on Golden Quadrilateral and 501 km length of NH on East-West Corridor in the State of Bihar is included in NHDP Phase-I and II. Work on Golden Quadrilateral and East-West Corridor are likely to be completed by July, 2007 and December, 2008 respectively. Beside Government has also approved 4/6 laning of 1015 km length of NH under NHDP phase-III which is likely to be completed by December, 2013.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Presently the priority of this Ministry is to develop the existing National Highways network for which huge investment is required.

Bad condition of NHs in Bihar

†4694. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on NH-57, a part of East-West National Highway situated in Bihar, the stretch from Jhanjharpur *via* Sakari is in quite dilapidated condition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of allocating the construction work of NH-57 in four lanes to the agencies, neither any improvement has been made for transportation on the said stretch nor the work of constructing 'four lanes' has been started yet; and

(c) if so, the justification thereof and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The 4 laning projects of Muzaffarpur to Purnea section (*via* Darbhanga, Jhanjharpur, Fulparas, Sakri, Narhiya & Bhutaha) of NH-57 in Bihar under NHDP Phase-II have already been started during January, 2006 except for Kosi Bridge. The construction of bridge across Kosi River has already been awarded on annuity basis and construction work will start after financial closure which is expected to be achieved by the concessionaire shortly. During mobilization process, the pace of work has been slow due to various activities like construction of camp site, deployment of necessary equipment and man power etc. being done at the site by the contractor. Presently, the progress in respect of four laning has picked up.

The above stretch of NHDP Phase-II is targeted for completion by December, 2007 except Kosi Bridge which is targeted by March 2010.

The section of NH-57 between Jhanjharpur *via* Sakri was in poor condition. Repair work is in progress and likely to be completed in another 2-3 weeks.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.